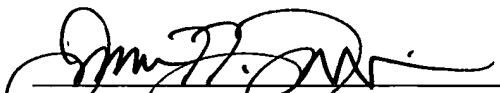


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8)

I hereby certify that this paper, together with all enclosures identified herein, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on or before February 11, 2004

Date

2/11/2004


Jovan N. Jovanovic

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Thornell et al
Examiner : Dionne A. Walls
Serial No. : 10/643,518
Group Art Unit : 1731
Confirmation No. : 4496
Attorney Docket No. : TNT – 021030C1
Filing Date : August 19, 2003
Title : ASHTRAY APPARATUS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the claims as indicated below prior to substantive examination of the present application.